

**LOUDOUN COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 24, 2009
County Government Center, Leesburg Room
1 Harrison St. Leesburg, VA 20176

Committee Members Present:

Paul Popejoy, Sugarland Run, Chairman
Donna Lewis, At-Large, Vice Chair
Kathy Brice, Blue Ridge, Recording Secretary (arrived at 7:03 pm)
Ann Gallus, Catocin
Dr. Leslie Sinn DVM, Potomac
Lila Westwood, Broad Run

Committee Members Absent:

Paul Dodaro, Sterling
Dr. Michael Strickland DVM, Leesburg
Monica Patty, Dulles

LCACC Staff Present:

Donna Levesque, Administrative Manager
Kim Miller, Animal Control Officer
Inga Fricke, Shelter Manager
Amy Seymour

Public Present:

Rhonda Bye
Mary Harper
Ron Litz

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Popejoy, at 7: 00 pm. The minutes for the May, 2009 meeting were reviewed and two typographical errors noted. It was noted by Ms. Lewis that a statement attributed to Ms. Fricke was questioned. Ms. Brice will review the recording and provide clarification on the statement made. Minutes for May were tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Lewis made a motion that the time of arrival of the committee members not be noted at the beginning of the minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Gallus. A short discussion followed and the motion was defeated by 3-3-3 (for the motion: Lewis, Gallus, Sinn; against the motion: Brice, Popejoy, Westwood).

Public Comment:

None

DIRECTOR UPDATE:

Director Koenig was not present and Kim Miller stated that the running at large ordinance did not go forward since the requisite review meetings were canceled.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL:

Animal Control: Ms. Miller stated that the report provided to the committee totaled zero and Kim will revise the report. Ms. Gallus asked if the number of calls between March and April were really that different? Ms. Miller stated that the numbers were accurate. Chairman Popejoy asked for a verbal summary of the urgency of the dog bite report (EMT vs inpatient treatment).

Public Relations: Ms. Rizer had a family emergency and could not attend today's meeting. Ms. Seymour reported that adoptable animals on the website now have links to "YouTube". Loudoun County is also now on Twitter (social networking site). The shelter has a "cat independence month." The mobile adoption unit was at Dulles Towne Center last weekend and it was very successful. Next mobile adoption stop: July 19th from 2-4 pm at Dulles Towne Center near the Cheesecake Factory.

Volunteers: The May statistics were distributed and questions were solicited. There are no new volunteers solicited at this point. There will be a new volunteer orientation in July.

Animal Shelter: The May statistics were previously distributed via email. Ms. Fricke asked if there are any questions on the report.

Ms. Brice asked about the numbers of animals who "died or lost in shelter care." Ms. Fricke's explanation was that a cat was found injured in the field and died on the way to the vet. There were two kittens in foster care and were very young (days old) and they did not survive. The other kitten (2 months old) died at the shelter (diagnosis unknown) but was under vet care. Ms. Brice asked for additional information, but it was not available at the meeting. Ms. Lewis asked what the high months for URI (Upper Respiratory Infection) were for the shelter. Ms. Fricke stated that it was pretty much year around. Ms. Gallus asked about the airflow and the protocol for handling URI infections. Ms. Fricke stated that since following the proper protocols, the instance of URI has decreased immensely. Most instances of URI come from outside the shelter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subcommittee reports:

Euthanasia Rates subcommittee. Ms. Westwood stated that their subcommittee did not meet during the last month and therefore had no report.

Public Visibility: Dr. Sinn, Ms. Brice and Ms. Rizer met last Friday and received an update on what the shelter is already doing, we had a discussion related to decreasing the surrender rates and increasing cat adoptions. Ms. Brice summarized the license plate funds that have been given to Loudoun County since 2005 (\$39,296.49). Ms. Brice stated that the state requires that the county accept the funds if they have a spay/neuter program and that there is over \$34,000 sitting in the fund. Ms. Leveque stated that there was an end of the year adjustment for approximately \$8,000 so that brings the balance to approximately \$26,000. A short discussion followed about the fact that the shelter did not have a spay/neuter program, but did assist with spay/neuter in their CARE program and issued vouchers last year at the Homeward Bound adoption event. It was noted that not all the vouchers were used. At the end of the discussion, it was suggested that the next step would be for Ms. Brice and Dr. Sinn to meet with Dir. Koenig to discuss this further. Ms. Brice asked for "use of license plate funds" to be added to the meeting next week.

No updates on the "increasing volunteers" subcommittee.

Laws & ordinances: Ms. Lewis stated that a meeting is set up for this week to discuss the tether and nuisance ordinances. Ms. Lewis will also make an appointment with the previous director to understand why the previous ordinance did not go forward. Chairman Popejoy stated that he had a conflict of interest on this ordinance and would not be working on this.

Animals in emergency: Ms. Gallus gave a brief update.

Reduced Cost and Improve Efficiency: no update.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Owner Requested Euthanasia. Chairman Popejoy will take the action to discuss any changes at the next meeting. Chairman Popejoy requested that the committee send any comments to Director Koenig for discussion at the next meeting. Ms. Lewis asked what version should be commented on for the future discussion. Chairman Popejoy stated that the May 27, 2009 version will be the baseline.

NEW BUSINESS

August, 2009 meeting. Ms. Lewis stated that it is customary since the BOS does not meet in August that we don't meet. Chairman Popejoy stated that this item will be brought forward for the July meeting.

Recent seminars. Dr. Sinn asked for an update on the recent seminars. Ms. Miller gave a brief summary.

Cockfighting. Ms. Gallus asked if the county had gone to court on this issue. Ms. Miller gave a brief overview of the status.

Dog fighting. Ms. Miller stated that they have recently responded to dog fighting in the town of Leesburg.

COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- Dr. Sinn stated that the training techs have been doing some good work with dogs recently.
- Chairman Popejoy stated that this is the 3rd consecutive absence of Mr. Dodaro and he will notify the BOS of his absence.
- Dr. Sinn will be working with the shelter related to cat enrichment and assessment programs in the future. She requested to add an agenda item for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 p.m.

The next meeting of the advisory committee will be held on Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Leesburg Room unless otherwise notified.

The meeting was tape-recorded and this verbatim record is considered part of these minutes.

Attachments